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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA
THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES OF CROATIA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 18 December 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of the declaration concerning the former Yugoslavia adopted by the European Council on 16 December 1995.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the text of the declaration to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 28 and 92, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Juan Antonio YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: English and French]

Declaration on the former Yugoslavia

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia remains the most difficult test for the transition from a divided Europe to a new Europe based on shared values of democracy, tolerance and respect for human rights. The European Council welcomes with the greatest of satisfaction, as a major step, the signing of the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina in Paris on 14 December 1995.

The establishment of peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina represents an extremely important step forward, not only for the peoples of the former Yugoslavia but also for the international community as a whole. The European Council pays homage to those who have helped to achieve that result through their efforts, their solidarity and their resolve. In this connection it welcomes the adoption by the United Nations Security Council of the resolution giving its support to the peace agreements signed in Paris and implementing their provisions in both civilian and military respects.

It is now for the parties to shoulder their responsibilities in fully implementing the agreement in order to bring an end to the war once and for all.

The European Council reaffirms the European Union's willingness to make a substantial contribution to the implementation of the peace agreement for Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of the positions stated in the Council conclusions of 30 October and 4 December 1995. The European Council endorses the conclusions of the London Conference and considers it necessary for the structures established to be set in place as soon as possible.

For the immediate future, the European Council sets the following priorities:

(a) It affirms the importance and the urgency of the successor States to the former Yugoslavia recognizing one another;

(b) It expresses its concern at the state of uncertainty currently affecting the Serb population of Sarajevo. It reminds the authorities of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina of their responsibility to take the necessary steps so that Sarajevo as a whole can live in safety and restore multi-ethnic coexistence;

(c) It repeats that the European Union is ready to make a contribution to the implementation of the civilian aspects of the peace agreement. It appeals to the international community also to contribute to that effort as part of equitable burden-sharing;

(d) It reaffirms the European Union's willingness to continue its humanitarian effort in the former Yugoslavia as long as is necessary. It also reaffirms the right of refugees and displaced persons to return freely and

safely to their homes throughout the territory of the former Yugoslavia and to obtain fair compensation as a fundamental right;

(e) It points to the importance of an urgent solution to the problem in Eastern Slavonia for the entire peace process in the region. It accordingly calls on the parties to continue negotiations in accordance with the basic agreement for the region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. It asks the United Nations Security Council to ensure the full implementation of that agreement by adopting a feasible mandate based on the establishment of an effective provisional administration and the deployment of a credible international force equipped with sufficient resources.

While noting the historic importance of the successes achieved in recent weeks, the European Council is fully aware of the magnitude of the task still to be carried out. This is not the time to relax our efforts; on the contrary, it is necessary to show perseverance and courage. The European Council will continue to work in that spirit.